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**SHORT  
HISTORY**  
OF THE FAIR

**MAP**  
OF THE FAIR

THE CASTRO  
SALUTES  
**SYLVESTER**

the official guide to the 30th annual castro street fair ★ sunday october 5 2003

*street fair*



M. Pieratt



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## Vote NO on Prop 54

### Ward Connerly is back.

The right-wing fanatic appointed by Pete Wilson has come up with yet another ballot initiative to promote radical inequality in California: Proposition 54.

### What is Proposition 54?

Proposition 54-the Information Ban-would bar state and local agencies from collecting and analyzing data on race and ethnicity. While collecting "data" might not seem important, state and local governments rely on this information to guarantee equal rights for all Californians.

### If Passed Prop 54 would:

#### Destroy Public Health Programs:

Our public health system relies on data about race and ethnicity to target programs that will reduce the rates of breast cancer, teen pregnancy, and childhood obesity in certain communities. Some racial and ethnic groups are more likely to suffer from certain health problems than others. Prop 54 would destroy the ability of our public health programs to develop lifesaving prevention programs.

#### Promote Workplace and Housing Discrimination:

Tens of thousands of Californians report workplace and housing discrimination every year to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. Prop 54 will block this Department from gathering information on discrimination based on race or ethnicity. Without this information, the State of California will not be able to enforce anti-discrimination laws.

## Vote NO on the Recall

This Recall is an abuse of the initiative process by wealthy individuals and it is unfair and unjust. It is a dangerous precedent to Recall a Governor just because you don't like him. If successful, it could lead to perpetual recalls in this state. November 2002 was a legal election and a choice was made by the majority of California citizens. The current Governor has not committed an act that justifies this recall. This Recall disenfranchises and makes null and void the votes cast by the huge number of ethnic voters who turned out in the last election. It is an effort, like the one in Florida, to take an election by any means necessary, even if it means buying it. California is the 8th largest economy in the world, which has already been seriously damaged by this measure. The instability created by this Recall will set in motion a trend that is bad for California and the world.

Don't be Fooled by Fools-Vote No.

## Help stop these dangerous measures on October 7.

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Both are opposed by the Harvey Milk LGBT and  
The Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Clubs.

### Pride At Work, AFL CIO

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howardwallace@earthlink.net.



# welcome



## to the castro street fair

With an  
anniversary  
and a Sylvester  
tribute, it's a  
special fair  
this year.



by Steve Gaynes,  
President

Wow! The Castro Street Fair is thirty years old! Founded by Harvey Milk in 1974, the fair serves the community by supporting more than thirty nonprofit groups. When Harvey looks down at the Fair I'm sure he would be very pleased.

This year we want to make a very special Main Stage show dedicated to the memory of one of the greatest entertainers to ever call the Castro home: our very own Sylvester.

Our community should be very proud that the Castro Street Fair is one of the best-produced street fairs in the city. This is through the dedication of our wonderful board members who toil all year long to make the fair an enormous success.

Check out the main stage produced by Richard Winchester. Richard's theme is "Mighty Real," and you will hear live music that will bring back some of our community's best memories.

Go dance on a real wooden floor at the Country Western Dance stage produced by Sundance Association (in the parking lot behind the Castro Theatre). Then join the Braindrops Techno Dance stage in the parking lot behind Walgreen's to hear some of San Francisco's hottest DJs. One of the biggest hits in past fairs, the Latin stage, will be on 18th Street next to the Cala Supermarket. Lots of hot Latin and Salsa music—and of course the buff go-go boys.

A new addition to the fair will be Sugar Valley, a collection of emerging artists who will show their stuff on 18th Street between Hartford and Noe.

All along Market Street, Castro, and 18th Street will be beer, ethnic food, local arts and crafts, and nonprofits serving the community. Please take some time to check out their booths; you will find products, services, volunteer opportunities, and social groups that you can only find at the Castro Street Fair.

This year we have 26 local nonprofits staffing the gates. Please be generous! All the funds you donate go back to these groups. Our official beer booths are also staffed by nonprofits and benefit their causes, so enjoy this day in which the neighborhood celebrates itself. ★



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**Lorna Thornton, MD**  
**Lisa Stermann, MD**  
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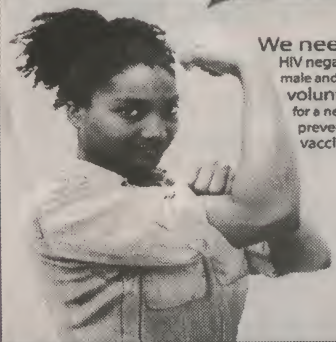
You must have a viral load of > 1000 copies/ml at screening. You must have taken at least 1 but no more than 3 PI's, at least 1 NNRTI, and at least 2 NRTI's.

Contact Dr. Stephen Becker of

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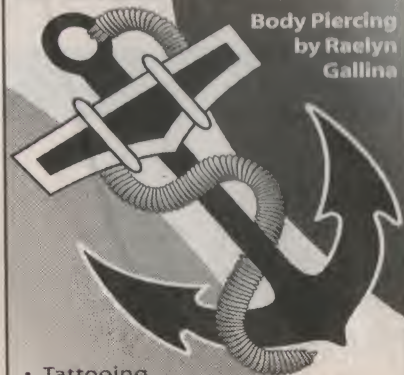
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The Pride Pages, and other LGBT publications*

3415 Cesar Chavez, Suite 101  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
415-648-9464  
415-648-4704 (fax)  
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Distribution: Juan Ramirez

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the board and beneficiaries of the castro street fair

## street fair

*The money you spend at the fair helps  
us help the following organizations.*

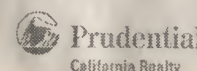
Since 1998 the Castro Street Fair has been a benefit for over 30 nonprofit groups each year. These groups collect much-needed funds at the gate and pour beer in the beer booths. The Castro Street Fair has generated more than \$335,000 for these groups since 1998. The Castro Street Fair also funds the rainbow flags for the flag pole on the corner of Castro and Market Streets—as well as other worthwhile projects in the neighborhood.

The 2003 Castro Street Fair is dedicated to the memory of Sylvester. The main stage theme will be "Mighty Real" as a tribute to the great disco diva who got his start in the Castro.

### 2003 Board

|               |                         |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| Rick Thomas   | Cofounder & Booth Chair |
| Pablo Heising | Executive Director      |
| Dick Carn     | Beverage Director       |
| Steve Gaynes  | President               |
| Gordon Gregg  | Treasurer               |
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| David Meyer   | PR and Web              |
| David Miller  | Electronica Stage       |

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Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy  
Harvey Milk Institute  
Immune Enhancement Project  
Imperial Council of San Francisco  
Instituto Familiar De La Raza  
Intergenerational Project  
Lyric  
MCC San Francisco  
McKinley Elementary School  
Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group  
Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS)  
Positive Resource Center  
Project Open Hand  
SF Gay Men's Chorus  
Stop AIDS Project  
The Center  
Under One Roof  
Beer Groups  
Bears Of San Francisco  
Castro Lyons  
Bowler's Relief Fund  
GSRA SF Rodeo  
SF Fog Rugby Club  
Aftershock Softball Team

*Remember! Make a \$3 donation at the  
fair gates and get a sticker good for \$1 off  
all beer and water at the fair-sponsored  
beverage booths all day long!*



*greetings from bevan dufty*

Welcome to the 30th annual Castro Street Fair.

Harvey Milk and his lover Scott Smith, owners of Castro Camera, began this wonderful tradition in 1974.



By the early 70's, the neighborhood known as Eureka Valley underwent a revival; boarded up stores found new life and gay men and lesbians found a new home in the Castro.

Thirty years later, I asked that we work together to create a Castro Renaissance. The response has been amazing.

With the help of the Department of Public Works, we are improving the streetscape and greening the neighborhood.

Under Thom Lynch's leadership, the Community Center will establish the first LGBT Neighborhood Economic Development Organization (NEDO) and provide a home, for the next two years, to Mitch Thompson's groundbreaking Queer youth program while the Eureka Valley Rec Center is renovated.

Neighbors asked for a shoe store and fresh bread bakery: De La Sole is opening a shoe store at the old Le Salon and La Nouvelle Patisserie wants to open in the old Valley Pride. Other ideas include Shakespeare in Collingwood Park and more public art and performance spaces. Give us your ideas, or just help by picking up a discarded newspaper or stray piece of litter. The Castro Street Fair is an exciting, communal, fun weekend that speaks to the Renaissance we want year-round.

**I want to commend the Castro Street Fair for once again raising funds for over 30 non-profits in a year of great financial need. It is great that we're honoring Sylvester, a San Francisco legend of the Disco era (that still hasn't ended for me).**

At the end of the month, I hope you will join us again for Halloween in the Castro ([www.halloweensf.org](http://www.halloweensf.org)). With your participation, it can be a safe and fun night with great costumes and entertainment and without the alcohol and mayhem that have made many of us stay away from our own neighborhood.

Most of all, enjoy the Castro and this wonderful Street Fair. Thank you Harvey, Scott, and all those who created this great tradition.

*Bevan*

BEVAN DUFTY  
District 8 Supervisor

# Mr. Mic.



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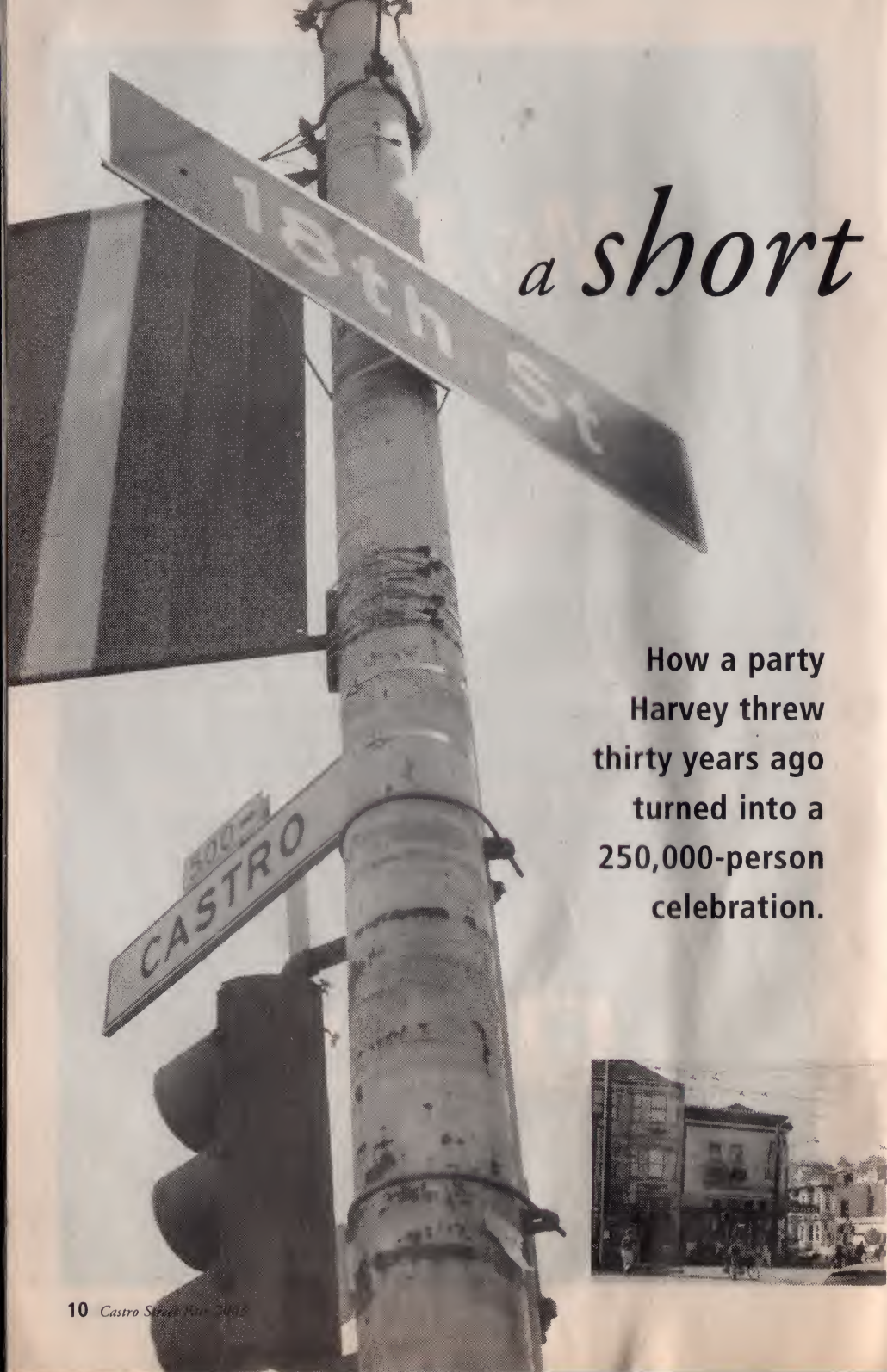
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# *a short history of the fair*

**How a party  
Harvey threw  
thirty years ago  
turned into a  
250,000-person  
celebration.**



# *a*

As the sixties ended in San Francisco, something special started happening in the western Mission neighborhood known as Eureka Valley. On Castro Street, storefronts that had been boarded over for years were becoming commercial enterprises once again, and the Irish working-class homeowners on the surrounding streets were being offered irresistible prices for their Victorians in need of paint. The cause of all this activity was the increasing influx, soon to become a flood, of gay baby boomers from various parts of the city, from Polk Gulch to North Beach, from the Tenderloin to the Richmond.

One of these gay pioneers was Harvey Milk, who along with his lover Scott Smith, took off the boards from one of those storefronts and opened Castro Camera. Ever the dreamer, Harvey soon began thinking it was time to recognize formally the existence of this exciting new community that was being formed at the

foot of Twin Peaks. Thus, the Castro Street Fair was created, modeled after events that had been happening for the past few years on Polk Street and for almost two decades on upper Grant in North Beach. In August of 1974, the Castro Street Fair was born.

Harvey and Scott put up a sign in the window of the camera store that announced simply: "Organizing the first Castro Street Fair." The sign attracted the attention of Rick Slick, a performer living one block up the hill in a commune called the Big Top. Rick had been a street musician for the past few years and he told Harvey he could put together a show for the event and spread the word among the street artists who sold their wares every weekend at Fisherman's Wharf. Without missing a beat, Harvey gave him a hearty handshake and said, "You're on," bringing in an important member of the team that would make the Castro Street Fair a reality.

There was no pre-registration that same





# a short history of the fair

year. Scott signed up the artists and craftspeople, and Harvey stepped off a section of pavement and gave them the go-ahead. Just one block of Castro Street (between 18th and 17th Streets) was closed to traffic, and Rick set up a stage next to the bank on the corner of 18th in an area that (due to its proximity to the bank and popularity as a sun bathing spot) was known as "Hibernia Beach." By the afternoon of that warm and sunny Indian summer day, the street was jammed from one end to the other with bodies in various states of undress. Harvey was incapable of hiding his well-known mischievous grin, as it was obvious that the first Castro Street Fair was a success beyond all expectations.

The second year followed pretty much the same formula, with the addition of a second stage up the hill at 19th Street that featured a four-hour rock and roll dance party. The stage at Hibernia Beach again presented a variety show of street performers and added appearances by the San Francisco Mime Troupe and the new sensation from North Beach by Steve Silver, *Beach Blanket Babylon*.

By the third and fourth years, the merchants became more formally involved in the fair. The newly founded Castro Village Association, which in later years became the Eureka Valley Merchants

Association, became an official sponsor. Harvey by then had become more involved with his campaigns to become a city supervisor and to establish district elections, leaving the organization of the street fair primarily to Scott and Rick. By then the fair had spread to a second block up Castro to Market Street, and a third stage was added by the Castro Theatre.

Nineteen seventy-eight was a landmark year for the Castro Street Fair. Harvey's election to the Board of Supervisors made him the first openly gay elected official in the history of the world. The Castro neighborhood was booming as a phenomenon called the "gay mecca;" thousands more had settled in and around Eureka Valley with each fair. With Harvey's political life claiming most of his time and attention, Scott was left to take care of the camera store. The nuts and bolts of organizing and operating the fair became the responsibility of Rick and a small circle of

friends from the Big Top commune, including Dennis Peron and the workers at Island, a community restaurant at 16th and Sanchez. The fair had grown and expanded along with the neighborhood, spreading east and west on 18th from Castro, and turning the corner onto Market Street

*continued on page 14*

*...it was obvious  
that the first  
Castro Street Fair  
was a success  
beyond all  
expectations.*



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# a short history of the fair

continued from page 12



## Sylvester: A Star was Born at Castro and Market

The Fifth Annual Castro Street Fair in 1978 marked the debut of the main stage at the crest of the hill on Market Street at Collingwood. The stage's location sent the sound of the fair's music straight downtown toward City Hall, where Harvey Milk had just been installed as supervisor. That year the show was highlighted by a local entertainer who'd gone from a local drag revue called the Cockettes to become an international disco diva. Sylvester adopted the street fair as his roots, and as a gift back to the community he came from, he returned to the main stage many times, always donating his services and paying the band himself. At the height of his popularity, he flew his band back from London in the middle of his European tour. There will never be a more perfect headliner for the Castro Street Fair than this beautiful man. —R.T.

and Noe. With upwards of 100,000 people showing up on the day of the fair, it just wasn't safe to keep everyone jammed into two short blocks.

Then, on a gray morning in November, the world of the Castro and the Castro Street Fair was forever changed when Dan White walked into Harvey's office at City Hall with a gun in his hand. He had just assassinated Mayor George Moscone, and Harvey was next on his list. The Castro became the setting for a mile-long funeral procession and the street fair became a ship without a rudder in danger of sinking.

Scott was Harvey's heir, and with his help and support, Rick formed the nonprofit organization The Castro Street Fair, Inc., to continue the event as a tribute to the life and spirit of its founder. The first board of directors included Harvey's chief of staff, Anne Kronenberg, as the first president, backed by longtime supporters and community leaders Andrea Jepson and Sharon Lawrence, the publisher of *The Castro Times* Fred Brothers, and president of the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association Walter Park. On the fair's staff were assistant producer Jake Hesse and Dick Carn, both



of whom continue on the board to this day as valuable staff consultants. Also on the first board was a leader in the Haight Ashbury, Pablo Heising, who with Harvey's help had started a sister event, the Haight Street Fair, and who currently serves as the Castro Street Fair's executive director.

Many community activists have served on the board through the years, bringing changes major and minor. Most recently, current board president Steve Gaynes has significantly developed the fundraising abilities of the fair. By soliciting sponsors from the business and corporate communities, and through the development of the gate donations project, over the past few years the fair has helped raise nearly half a million dollars for AIDS, educational, artistic, and other community nonprofit organizations. Although Harvey didn't create the Castro Street Fair as a fundraising event, neither did he foresee the onslaught of a devastating health crisis in his community. So with the Castro firmly established as the center of the gay community in San Francisco, which was Harvey's concept, it's safe to assume he'd approve of the direction the Castro Street Fair has taken today. ★

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# street fair

## site map and facilities



Locations subject to change

## stages and performances *schedule*

Five stages and lots of great performers celebrate the fair's big three-o.  
All stages are open from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### ★ "mighty real" main stage

Castro and Market Streets

- 11:00 DJ Licious
- 12:00 Acid Housewife
- 12:30 Drag Kings
- 12:40 Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
- 1:00 Pepperspray
- 1:30 Donna Sachet
- 2:00 Aqua Velvets
- 3:00 Kimo's 20 Years of Madonna in 20 Minutes
- 3:45 Veronjka Klaus
- 4:00 The Woodyz
- 5:00 The Ethel Merman Experience

### ★ country western dance stage

Parking lot, behind the Castro Theatre

Today's country dancing is fun, romantic, wild, sexy, and free-spirited. And best of all, it's easy to learn. The Sundance Saloon Country Western Dance Corral will offer beginning line dance lessons and beginning two-step lessons during the day.

### latin stage ★

18th Street and Collingwood Streets

The Latin Pride dance stage returns with some of our best entertainment ever. Many of the Bay Area's leading Latino organizations will take part. The music you will hear is an eclectic offering of cumbia, merengue, salsa, and Spanish pop along with the ass-shaking sounds of hip-hop and dance music. Produced by Rob Walker.

### electronica dance stage ★

Parking lot, behind Walgreen's on 18th

Join the Braindrops Techno Dance stage in the parking lot behind Walgreen's to hear some of San Francisco's hottest DJs. Produced by David Miller.

### sugar valley ★

18th Street between Hartford and Noe

A new addition to the fair will be Sugar Valley, a collection of emerging artists who will show their works. Make sure to walk through the area to browse their beautiful creations.



# castro

## street fair

### entertainment at this year's fair

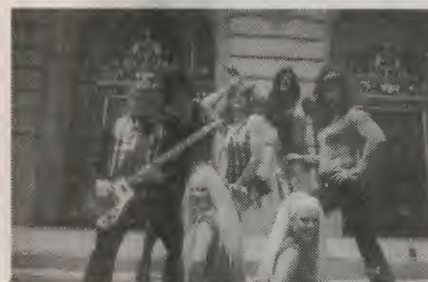
#### **Mighty Real: A Tribute to Sylvester**

by Richard Winchester



*aqua velvets*

The Aqua Velvets are one of the world's premier surf instrumental groups. Their albums include *Surfmania* (WEA/Atlantic), *Nomad*, and *Guitar Noir* (Milan Entertainment/BMG), and their signature sound can be heard on several TV and film scores. Their brand of surf rock incorporates a fascinating blend of spaghetti western, shimmering psychedelia, pristine surf, Latin rhythms, and a tongue-in-cheek dash of lounge. The Aqua Velvets consist of Miles Corbin (songwriter and guitars), Michael Lindner (bass, keyboards, and accordion), Spencer Chan (keyboards), and ex-Rubinoos drummer Donn Spindt. When Rhino Records compiled a fifteen-song CD titled *Surf for the Hard Rock Café*, they chose the Aqua Velvets' "Spanish Blue" to represent the new generation of surf bands. Their song was the only track not from the early sixties.



*pepperspray*

This instantly infamous San Francisco-based tranny rock sensation takes the age-old tradition of female impersonation and launches it into the new millennium. Integrating the blinding beauty of today's most glamorous pop stars with scintillating performances and flawless musicianship, Pepperspray promises a visionary rock spectacle. A combination of the Spice Girls and the Sex Pistols, the band is skilled at reinterpreting popular rock tunes from every era. Pepperspray is a party band to dance to: slam dance, dirty dance, or lap dance. Dance you will to the sound of these sexy sirens. Culled from the top performers of San Francisco's cutting-edge drag scene, each member is a star in her own right. From formally trained actor to small-town beauty queen, these girls are programmed for world domination. With eclectic verse and the passion to perform, Pepperspray is so hot you may not recover.

The Woodyz are the best new party band I have seen in a looooooong time. The fact that they are five drag kings and one hot femme makes the fifties and sixties cover band concept work in ways you never imagined. The satire used to change many of the old lyrics like "Doin' That Crazy Hand Job" and the repartee between Cherry and Johnny is fantastic! Wonderful vocal harmonies and a tight band (plus a drag queen horn section!) makes the Woodyz a must see—over and over again.

#### *the woodyz*





# entertainment at this year's fair

Ten years ago, Donna Sachet started her adventure in San Francisco. The city has applauded her fun-loving spirit, quick wit, and musical talent ever since. The character of Donna Sachet was actually born at a retreat of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (with whom she continues to appear). In 1993 she was selected Miss Gay San Francisco and two years later became the thirtieth elected Empress of the City. Donna can be seen throughout the community, judging contests, emceeing fundraisers, cutting ribbons, and hosting parties. She has entertained at venues as varied as The Plush Room, the Castro Theatre, the Great American Music Hall, Marlena's, the Grand Staircase of City Hall, the Masonic Auditorium in San Francisco, at the foot of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., in Sydney, Australia for Gay Mardi Gras, in New York City at the Marriott Marquis on Broadway, in Los Angeles at the Metropolitan Community Church with the cast of Mama Mia, and in Chicago for the San Francisco Party at the International Mr. Leather Competition.

As a live singer and tireless fundraiser, Donna has received many awards including the 1995 Darrell Yee Award from the AIDS Emergency Fund. In 1996 she was Cable Car Entertainer of the Year, and in 1997 she got an International Jose Honors Imperial Award. She's also been awarded the 1998 Inter-Club Fund's Most Supportive Non-Leather Title-Holder, the Castro Lion



donna sachet

Club 2000 President's Appreciation Award, and the 2000 Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club Community Service Award.

Ten years ago she established the long-running, annual *Songs of the Season* holiday variety show, which this past year raised thousands of dollars for the AIDS Emergency Fund with a sold-out house at Ruby Skye. Accolades have come her way from three San Francisco mayors, the City Board of Supervisors, the State Legislature, and the esteemed Herb Caen. She has served as honorary co-chair of the AIDS Emergency Fund, member of the Board of Positive Resource Center, co-chair of the Imperial Council, and president of the Empress' Council. She is currently on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco LGBT Community Center. Donna has served as national spokesmodel for Smirnoff Twist Vodka, co-anchored the live television coverage of the June 2002 SF Pride Parade on the WB20 network and the June 2003 Parade on KRON-4, and can be heard singing on the benefit holiday compilation *Carols Across America*.

## the ethel merman experience



Get ready for one of the most outrageous performances in rock n' roll when Ethel Merman takes the stage and sings the hard rockin' hits of the seventies and more! Channeled by Mark Sargent, and backed by Anita Onyda on guitar, Eddie Bartley on bass, and Steve Bauer on drums, Ethel leaves Broadway behind as she belts out the unforgettable, guitar-driven classics from such bands as Led Zeppelin, AC/DC, Ted Nugent, Kiss and others. This is definitely an act that must be seen (and heard) to be believed! Don't miss it! ★

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# churches in the castro

Neighborhood  
churches attend to  
the spiritual needs  
of a community.

by Reverend Jim Mitulski

Are you looking for a place to read the bible and decide for yourself what it really says about homosexuality? Are you looking for a place to revisit the religion of your childhood to see if you still feel a sense of belonging? Are you looking for ways to access completely new spiritual paths, to learn meditation and prayer in the company of other seekers? Are you looking for a place to express your ethical convictions by performing social service? Are you looking for a place to have your wedding, to celebrate the life of a loved one, to baptize your child or to observe some other life cycle ceremony?

The Castro offers virtually everything to answer those questions, and what it doesn't offer can likely

be found within a short distance. We are a deeply spiritual people, which for us doesn't mean denying the body or sexuality. At its best, LGBT spirituality affirms the goodness of sexuality as a way of knowing more about each other and ourselves. It does not tell us what to believe but equips us to make our own moral decisions. It promotes the equality of women and men, and fuels our passion for justice for all people, so that we become an effective witness against homophobia, racism, and sexism. Queer religion does not tell us to apologize for who we are. It moves us into a proud celebration of our divinely conferred identity as healers, lovers, mystics, activists, and advocates. The world around us looks

*continued on page 24*



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## EQUALITY AND PROGRESS

The DNC's Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Outreach is actively working with the GLBT community to help elect a Democratic President in 2004 who will stand up for the rights of all GLBT Americans.



Sign up for the DNC's  
interactive GLBT newsletter at  
<http://www.democrats.org/glbtc>

*The Democratic National Committee  
welcomes attendees  
to the 2003 Castro Street Fair!*

Please join us in our fight for equality and progress! Make sure that your voice is heard!

- 1) Vote NO on the Recall!
- 2) Vote NO on Proposition 54!





# churches in the castro

continued from page 22



Congregation Sha'ar Zahav



The GLBT Community Center



Most Holy Redeemer



Metropolitan Community Church

different as a result of our spiritual questing and is a better place for it.

Don't let the words or actions of a mean-spirited institution—one that uses religious language as a cover for prejudice—discourage you from exploring your spiritual side. Here is just a sampling of what you can find in or around the Castro to get you started on your path to enlightenment:

**Congregation Sha'ar Zahav** ([www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org)), 290 Dolores Street, 415-861-6932. The principal Sabbath service is Friday at 8:15 p.m. Extensive programs for children. A Reform synagogue founded in 1977.

**Ministries of Light** ([www.ministriesoflight.org](http://www.ministriesoflight.org)) offers a monthly services on the fourth Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the GLBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. Call 415-515-7835 to confirm dates and topics.

**Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church** ([www.mhr.org](http://www.mhr.org)), 100 Diamond Street, 415-863-6259. Sunday Mass at 10:00 a.m. Serving the Castro neighborhood for over a century. Although the Catholic Church in general has been no friend to GLBT people, this parish is truly a safe place and is also home to **Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group** ([www.mhr-asg.com](http://www.mhr-asg.com)), 415-863-1581. **DIGNITY/SF** ([www.dignitypacific/sanfrancisco](http://www.dignitypacific/sanfrancisco)), is another gay Catholic organization worth checking out. Run by gay Catholics for gay Catholics, this organization is unambiguously gay affirming. Sunday Mass at 5:30 p.m., 1329 Seventh Avenue. Dignity also sponsors a Catholic Leather/Levi group, the **Defenders** ([www.sfdefenders.org](http://www.sfdefenders.org)).

**Metropolitan Community Church** ([www.mccsf.org](http://www.mccsf.org)), 150 Eureka Street, 415-863-4434. Founded in 1970 by the gay community for the gay community, it is the oldest and largest of the queer religious organizations. Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Also home to **Metropolitan Community Foundation**, which provides services to the homeless and to children at the nearby Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy. Go to [www.MCCChurch.org](http://www.MCCChurch.org) to find out about other MCCs.

**City of Refuge United Church of Christ** ([www.srefuge.org](http://www.srefuge.org)) began holding Afro-centric Pentecostal services in the Castro over ten years ago, and now operates **Ark House**, a transitional housing program for queer homeless youth at 2500 Market Street, 415-861-6130. High-energy worship is held on Sundays

at 1025 Howard Street. Possibly the most inclusive church in San Francisco, distinguished for its representation of transgenders in every aspect of church life.

**Bethany United Methodist Church** ([www.bethanysf.org](http://www.bethanysf.org)) 1268 Sanchez at Clipper, 415-647-8393. Sunday worship at 11:00 a.m. Despite official Methodist condemnation of gay people, this congregation has always been a strong advocate for us in church and society. They own the beautiful garden at 2293 Market at Noe, where they hope to construct a new facility. They also host **Dolores Street Baptist Church** ([www.dsbchurch.org](http://www.dsbchurch.org)), 415-826-2641. Expelled by the Southern Baptist Convention for GLBT advocacy, they worship on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. in Bethany's fellowship hall.

**Hartford Street Zen Center** ([www.hartfordstreetzen.com](http://www.hartfordstreetzen.com)) began offering daily meditation at 57 Hartford Street over 15 years ago. Call 415-863-2507 for a full schedule of events. **The San Francisco Zen Center** ([www.sfzc.org](http://www.sfzc.org)) at 300 Page Street has always welcomed the participation of GLBT people. They also sponsor Green Gulch Farm, a great place to learn about Buddhism for those who did not grow up with Buddhist teachings. Call 415-863-3136 for a comprehensive listing of events. Public lectures are Saturday and Sundays at 10:15 a.m. **Gay Men's Buddhist Sangha** ([www.gaysangha.org](http://www.gaysangha.org)), organized to bring Buddhism to the gay community, is also available. Call or write for listing of events, 415-207-8113. Mailing address: 2215-R Market Street, #162, SF CA 94114.

Two nearby Episcopal Churches welcome GLBT people: **All Saints Church** ([www.allsaintssanfran.org](http://www.allsaintssanfran.org)), 1350 Waller Street, 415-621-1862. Sunday mass at 10:00 a.m., and **Church of St. John the Evangelist** (<http://home.pacbell.net/stjohnsf>) 1661 15th Street, 415-861-1436. Sunday Mass at 11:00 a.m. Check out [www.oasiscalifornia.org](http://www.oasiscalifornia.org) for a listing of additional welcoming Episcopal Churches.

Two Lutheran Churches welcome GLBT people. **Saint Francis Lutheran Church** ([www.st.francisc-lutheran.org](http://www.st.francisc-lutheran.org)) 152 Church Street, 415-621-2635, made history by ordaining two lesbians to the ministry, and was then expelled from the Lutheran denomination. They worship on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. in one of the Castro's most beautiful churches. **Golden Gate Lutheran Church** ([www.dolores19.org](http://www.dolores19.org)), 601 Dolores Street, 415-647-5050, is a real home to all, including the homeless. They worship on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. They also host an independent



Bethany United Methodist Church.  
Right: Garden at 2293 Market Street.



Hartford Street Zen Center



Church of St. John the Evangelist



# churches in the castro



Saint Francis Lutheran Church



Golden Gate Lutheran Church

charismatic church, founded by gay people for gay people, **New Freedom in Christ Evangelical Church** ([www.freedominchrist-sf.org](http://www.freedominchrist-sf.org)), 415-970-8149. They worship on Sundays at 6:00 p.m.

## Flesh and Spirit Community

([www.energybodycenter.com](http://www.energybodycenter.com)), 415-552-7417. A queer men's body/spirit community conducting workshops, retreats, community building gatherings, prayer/ritual circles and more.

## The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

([www.thesisters.org](http://www.thesisters.org)) is our indigenous order of nuns dedicated to ridding the world of guilt and shame. This group has attended to the charitable and philanthropic needs of our community for over a generation.

As you can see, the Castro area is home to more spiritual organizations serving the unique needs of GLBT, intersexed, and HIV-affected people than any other place in the world. This abundance of religious opportunities is a testimony to the spiritual longings of a community that has long been stigmatized by traditional religions. Though some homophobic religions have tried to squelch our community's spirit, they have been unable to extinguish the flame of our love for all things human and divine. Relying on our innate creativity, we have reclaimed, re-imagined, renovated, and reinvented these traditions. As such, we may find ways to support each other in our spiritual quests.

During the most difficult years of the AIDS crisis, religious organizations in the Castro helped keep the spirit of hope alive. Many of these groups continue to serve not only people with HIV, but the poor and homeless who also find respite in this neighborhood. The Castro is a beacon of tolerance and compassion, two of the most important religious principles.

The Castro is the geographical heart of the city. Its people also make it a place of unprecedented spiritual convergence. Here you can find queer-determined or queer-affirming sanctuaries representing almost every faith known to humanity. So don't be shy—part of the spiritual enterprise will be found in the experimenting. Say no to oppressive religion, and open yourself to whatever frees you to live life with abundance and meaning. ★

*Jim Mitulski was the pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco for fifteen years; he now serves the MCC in Los Angeles as Associate Director of Leadership Development.*

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The Sundance Association for Country-Western Dancing is a community-based, all-volunteer, non-profit organization, which was formed in 1999 for the purpose of country-western dance promotion and education within the lesbian/gay community. The Sundance Association has not only helped build a vital and energetic country-western dance community, but it has also raised over \$27,000 for other Bay Area charities and non-profits.

For more information mosey over to the Sundance Country-Western Dance Corral at the Castro Street Fair, located in the parking lot a few doors up from the Castro Theater on Castro Street. Or mosey your web-browser over to [www.sundancesaloon.org](http://www.sundancesaloon.org)

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# behind the bar

A denizen leads us  
back in time to the  
early incarnations of  
the Castro's favorite  
watering holes.

by Robert Davolt



San Francisco has always delighted in her shady past, keeping it at a flirtatious distance, just behind her thin facade of gentility. She is a bawdy, fun-loving, party girl under the prim frock of a respectable society matron.

The Castro neighborhood is no different, despite a recent emergence of levelheaded maturity that has spawned more strollers than street life. Even as life becomes low-fat, low-cholesterol, and smoke-free, the neighborhood still retains the remnants of its wicked, rollicking past 30 years as the center of a peculiar universe.

At the **Midnight Sun**, those days would start out early; back then, the bar was packed shoulder to shoulder by 11:00 a.m. Of course, it was much easier to crowd the narrow storefront on Castro Street, before the bar moved to roomier quarters on 18th Street. Patrons' most vivid memory of the old Sun was its décor, which changed completely every few months and included lavish props and themes.

After a late brunch at **The Elephant Walk** (now **Harvey's**), the afternoon would slowly ease into evening. The relaxed, tropical atmosphere of the Walk made it the perfect meeting place. Overhead fans slowly wafted and windows opened on to the street—at a time when passersby were more likely to ask your sign than for spare change. If you were in a cultural mood, maybe you swung by for music or live comedy at **Josie's** (which closed in 1999, now replaced with an "Asian-California fusion noodle house.") After that, you could begin your night bouncing between any number of drinking and dancing establishments.

**Twin Peaks** is often touted as the first gay bar to have windows that were not painted over or heavily curtained to shield the identity of patrons. It is often mistakenly called the oldest continually operating gay bar in the Castro, but according to state liquor license records, **The Pendulum** most likely takes that prize. The confusion is understandable: The Peaks (nicknamed "The Glass Coffin" or "God's Waiting Room") may have some of the oldest continually operating gay bar patrons.

Some spaces were more active than others. What began as the **Missouri Mule** became **Hombres**, then **Patsy's** before it became **The Detour**. Although the Detour has been

closed nearly a year now—it's being used for storage and as a board piece in a game of Castro Bar Monopoly—rumors still fly about its impending reopening.

**Café San Marco**, a restaurant, morphed into **The Café**, a dance bar. Few people still remember **Gallagher's**, an Irish policeman's bar which became **Bear Hollow**, then **The Bear**, and today is **Daddy's**. The lineages begin to sound like the Old Testament: **The Mineshaft** begat **Alfie's** which begat **The Lucky 13**. **The Eureka** on the corner of 18th and Collingwood begat **The Pipeline**, which begat **Festus'** which in turn begat **Francine's**, which brought forth in the fullness of time, **The Edge**.

**The Castro Station** started out as a narrow little watering hole midway between 17th and 18th on Castro, barely wide enough for just the bar and barstools. It expanded into the space next door and became an eclectic mix of pool players, cruisers, tourists, and natives. The Station closed in 1998 to be replaced by the distinctly less diverse **The Bar on Castro**.

Many memories are buried forever, as buildings were rebuilt for other uses. **Toad Hall** became **DJ's** then **The Phoenix**—now a part of the Walgreen's drugstore at 18th and Castro.



## ladies' night

In the Castro and beyond,  
options for women abound.

In the Castro, **The Pendulum** (4146 18th Street) near Collingwood hosts **Alley Catz** every Thursday. **Daddy's** (440 Castro) is home to many fundraisers and events for the Leather Dyke Community. **The Café** (2367 Market) is known to women (and men) for its balcony overlooking Castro and Market, a hot dance floor, and the tender youth of its clientele.

Further out is the **Wild Side West** (424 Cortland), a cozy neighborhood pub in Bernal Heights that boasts a mixed patronage and a legacy of lesbian ownership going back to 1962. The venerable **Lexington Club** (3464 19th) off Valencia, proudly bills itself as "a full-time neighborhood dyke bar." The more upscale dance bar **Cherry Bar & Lounge** (917 Folsom, at 5th) hosts lesbian dance parties, especially the G Spot, on Saturdays. The

truly well-heeled hit **Mecca** for drinks and dinner every second and fourth Tuesday.

The first and third Saturday of every month gives folks an opportunity to get **In Bed With Fairy Butch** at the **Club Galia** (2565 Mission, at 22nd St.), a "campy, erotic cabaret and dance party for gals and trannies of all colors and pals" hosted by the FB herself. A little further down Mission, **Rebel Girl** hosts a lesbian night at **26 Mix** between 26th and Cesar Chavez.

The enterprising **Hot Clubs Presents**, with its miraculous spokesperson Chantal, puts together several popular dance parties at various locations. **Mango**, with mostly hip-hop, reggae, and latin dance happens at **Jelly's** (295 China Basin Way, Pier 50) every second Saturday of the month. **Peppa**, a mostly hip-hop, reggae, and international party spices up every fourth Saturday monthly at **El Rio** (3158 Mission). **Tight** at the **End Up** (401 6th Street) starts at 10:00 p.m. every third Saturday of the month and ends the next morning at 4:00 a.m. Some events feature buffet or barbecue. Most have an admission charge. —R.D.





## behind the bar



The **Shed** was located in the basement of the Market Street mini-mall that now contains Muscle Systems Gym. The Balcony (affectionately known as "the Baloney") was converted to retail space. The **Jackhammer** replaced one of the last straight bars in the area (ironically named **Dick's**) at 16th and Sanchez. That leather bar, which stained a thousand reputations, closed in 1995 and was replaced with a sushi restaurant. Notorious and violent (as if to prove that straight folks can misbehave as well), **The Unique** was forced to close and became gayer as **Nothing Special**—later just **The Special**—and even later butch up its act as **The Headquarters**, then **the Nightshift**. After a couple unsuccessful restaurants, that address is now occupied by a thriving pasta palace.

**Moby Dicks** (at Hartford and 18th) originally opened as an upscale alternative to neighborhood dives, featuring uniformed staff and classical music. It was soon discovered that the boys preferred sin to symphony. Further down 18th, **The Men's Room** has remained virtually unchanged for decades. Once known as **The Village**, **Uncle Bert's Place** entered the scene quietly and has become an institution for sports fans and smokers. Any bar with a patio became popular after California decided to ban smoking in bars in 1998. Bert's became known as **Mix** earlier this year.

**The Badlands**, oft expanded and contracted by turns, has remained at roughly the same spot for many years. It once included a restaurant and at one time the men's room featured a series of claw-footed bathtubs, used for both utility and sport.

It was a 24-hour party. After the bars closed, there was Collingwood Park and Buena Vista Park—hot cruising areas even before the neighborhood began to be known as a gay mecca. For those who preferred not to get grass stains on those tight, white 501's, there was a twenty-four-hour porn theater near 17th and Market called **OCC**, and the **Jaguar Bookstore** (with multiple floors of coin-operated booths across from its present location). A small bathhouse served late-night appetites between 19th and 18th, where a used clothing and leather store is today. A sex club known as **The Castro Party** or **The Black Victorian** operated until 1999, below the "leather" guest house, **The Black Stallion**. Further down Market, where the infamous **1808 Club** once offered ramshackle mazes and glory holes, now stands the sparkling new **San Francisco Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Community Center**. Often the sunrise over the Oakland hills signaled, instead of the beginning of the day, the end of revels and time for bed.

Today, men in the Castro speak in hushed, reverent tones about a time when both they and a neighborhood were much younger. The dates and the exact facts get a little hazy and out of order, names are forgotten. They marvel at how they and the community survived it all—how both the bad times and the good times took their toll. It gives the older men something fascinating to pass along to the younger men while they are waiting to order another cocktail. ★

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# the castro quiz

Compiled with  
the assistance  
of Trevor Hailey

## 1. Pink Triangles Forever

The Castro has a park memorializing homosexuals who perished in the Holocaust. Located on the northwest side of the intersection of Castro, Market, and 17th Streets, Pink Triangle Park turns Nazi Germany's mark of shame into a symbol of pride, remembrance, and education. The memorial is arranged in the shape of a large triangle and is a project of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association.

*How many individual triangle-shaped pillars make up the larger memorial?*

## 2. Say "Cheese," Harvey

The Castro building that housed Harvey Milk's store during the seventies, Castro Camera, has a mural of Milk painted on the top floor and a plaque outside commemorating Milk's life. San Francisco has even designated "historical landmark" status to the building at 575 Castro Street.

*What business now occupies the store where Castro Camera was?*

## 3. A Nickel for your Theatre

The current location of Cliff's Variety was actually the original site of the Castro Theatre. The theatre operated at 479 Castro Street until 1922, when it reopened just up the street from its original home, becoming the Castro's most enduring landmark.

*Why did the Castro Theatre move to its current location in 1922?*

## 4. Castro and Sons, Since 1975

Complaints about development destroying the Castro have been tossed about for years—and there are a few offenders, to be sure—but consider this: In 2003, Welcome Home restaurant and All American Boy celebrated their 26th year in business. (A maternity clothing store occupied All American Boy's location before that!)

*Which of the following stores are more than twenty years old?*

- ☐ Jaguar Books
- ☐ The Body Shop
- ☐ Herth Real Estate
- ☐ Cliff's Variety
- ☐ Diesel
- ☐ The Skin Zone

## 5. Earning our Stripes

The Castro's own beacon of pride and freedom, the rainbow flag, was first flown for the Gay Pride Parade in 1978. Each color in inventor Gilbert Baker's design stood for a concept; in 2001, the hot pink and turquoise stripes that had been dropped from the original flag were added.

*What do the rainbow flag's restored hot pink and turquoise stripes stand for?*

## 6. Flagging Flags

Have you noticed that the giant rainbow flag that flies at Castro and Market is always bright and untattered? No less than four fresh flags are needed every year, and the organizing board of the Castro Street Fair foots the bill.

*Since it was first raised in 1997, the Castro's old gay glory has been temporarily replaced by only two non-rainbow flags. Can you name them?*

*After a tour in the military as a nurse brought her to San Francisco in 1972, Trevor Hailey established herself as a folk heroine of local gay history. She introduced the "Cruisin' the Castro" walking tour in 1989. ★*

- Answers:**
1. Fifteen
  2. The Skin Zone
  3. Moving pictures made obsolete its nickelodeon format
  4. Give yourself one point each for guessing Jaguar Books, Herth Real Estate, Cliff's Variety, and The Skin Zone
  5. Sex and magic
  6. The American flag and the leather Pride flag

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